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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/666,200

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Hun Choi

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HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

633 WEST FIFTH STREET, TWENTY-FIRST FLOOR

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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/666,200	Applicant(s) CHOI, HUN	
	Examiner MARK J. BEAUCHAINE	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 34-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 35 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1-8 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The terms “tube” (claim 1, lines 13) and “projection” (claim 1, line 15) should be in the plural form.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4, 17-20, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Then term “the sensor” (claim 4, lines 1 and 2) is ambiguous because is it unclear which particular sensor is being referred to.

The term “second sensor” (claim 17, line 15; and claim 21, line 9) lacks sufficient antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 5,902,178 by Perkitny ("Perkitny") in view of Patent Number 5,163,868 by Adams et al ("Adams") in view of Patent Number US 6,371,845 B1 by Ishida et al ("Ishida"). The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting member 32 that sorts coins according to size, (see Figure 9), guides 42a-d that transfer said sorted coins to a predetermined location (see Figure 8), plurality of coin receiving tubes W that are disposed on an end portion of said guides to receive coins from said guide according to size (see Figures 11 and 12; and column 6, lines 33-46), and coin receiving containers 54a/56a, 54b/56b, 54c/56c and 54d/56d each configured to receive a plurality of tubes of the same size (see Figure 5). Said containers are withdrawn from said apparatus via a sliding configuration comprising sliding member having sliding grooves 78 that engage sliding projections 84 (see Figures 6A and 6B).

Perkitny fails to disclose a first sensor or control/display part. Adams teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising first sensor 51a that is formed to be offset from a center of guide 13 and counts coins according to size (see Figure 2 and column 4, lines 45-50), and control display part 17 (see Figure 1) for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted by said apparatus and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus (see column 2, lines 57-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the first sensor configuration of Adams into the coin sorting apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus.

Perkitny fails to disclose said containers as being individually inserted and withdrawn. Adams teaches a plurality of coin receiving containers 16a-i (see Figure 1 and column 3, lines 40-56) for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively withdraw coins from said apparatus according to denomination. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the container configuration of Adams into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively remove coins from said apparatus according to denomination.

Perkitny fails to disclose a second sensor/microcomputer configuration. Ishida teaches a coin counting apparatus comprising sensor 21 that includes two sensor elements that are slidable in relation to each other, transmit signals to each other to detect first and second locations of container 4 having coin receiving tubes 41-1 through

41-5, (see Figures 1 and 3 and column 6, line 16-27), and send signals to microcomputer 11 that controls said apparatus for the purpose of detecting the presence of said container within the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensor/microcomputer configuration of Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of detecting the presence of said container within the apparatus.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of Patent Number 6,021,883 by Casanova et al ("Casanova"). Perkitny/Adams/Ishida fails to disclose a speaker. Casanova teaches a coin processing apparatus incorporating a speaker (column 4, line 67) configured to make a predetermined sound according to an operation state of the coin sorting means for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the speaker of Casanova into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus.

Claims 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,989,118 by Chiba et al ("Chiba"). Perkitny/Adams/Ishida fails to disclose an optical sensor. Chiba teaches a coin

counting apparatus comprising optical sensor for counting the number of coins being sorted for the purpose of notifying and operator of a total count of coins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensor of Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida for the purpose of notifying an operator of a total count of coins.

Claims 5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Patent Number US 7,048,623 B2 by Perkitny ("Perkitny-2").

Perkitny/Adams/Ishida fails to disclose said coin sorting member as being motor actuated. Perkitny-2 teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising motor 44 that drives a rotational shaft (see Figure 1A), carrier container 62 that is coupled to said shaft and has carrier holes 82 (see Figure 2), and separation member 110 having holes 114a-e of different sizes (see Figure 4) for the purpose of sorting coins processed by said apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the sorting member configuration of Perkitny-2 into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida for the purpose of sorting coins processed by said apparatus.

Claims 6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,271,586 by Schmidt ("Schmidt").

Perkitny/Adams/Ishida fails to disclose said sliding projection as having an upper and lower plate/elastic member configuration. Schmidt teaches a sliding structure comprising member 20 that has a sliding groove and engages with sliding projection/extending portion 26, and elastic member 34 disposed around said extending portion to create a frictional force against plate 14 for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing sliding element 3 from said structure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sliding member/groove configuration of Schmidt into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing said container from said apparatus.

Claims 9, 11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida in view of Schmidt. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting member 32 that sorts coins according to size, (see Figure 9), guides 42a-d that transfer said sorted coins to a predetermined location (see Figure 8), plurality of coin receiving tubes W that are disposed on an end portion of said guides to receive coins from said guide according to size (see Figures 11 and 12; and column 6, lines 33-46), and coin receiving containers 54a/56a, 54b/56b, 54c/56c and 54d/56d each configured to receive a plurality of tubes of the same size (see Figure 5). Said containers are withdrawn from said apparatus via a sliding configuration comprising sliding member having sliding grooves 78 that engage sliding projections 84 (see Figures 6A and 6B).

Perkitny fails to disclose a first sensor or control/display part. Adams teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising first sensor 51a that is formed to be offset from a center of guide 13 and counts coins according to size (see Figure 2 and column 4, lines 45-50), and control display part 17 (see Figure 1) for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted by said apparatus and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus (see column 2, lines 57-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the first sensor configuration of Adams into the coin sorting apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus.

Perkitny fails to disclose said containers as being individually inserted and withdrawn. Adams teaches a plurality of coin receiving containers 16a-i (see Figure 1 and column 3, lines 40-56) for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively withdraw coins from said apparatus according to denomination. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the container configuration of Adams into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively remove coins from said apparatus according to denomination.

Perkitny fails to disclose a sensor/microcomputer configuration. Ishida teaches a coin counting apparatus comprising sensor 21 that transmits signals to microcomputer 11 that controls said apparatus for the purpose of detecting the operating condition of said apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to incorporate the sensor/microcomputer configuration of Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of detecting the operating condition of said apparatus.

Perkitny fails to disclose said sliding projection/groove configuration having said sliding grooves formed on the same horizontal plane or having an upper and lower plate/elastic member configuration. Schmidt teaches a sliding structure comprising member 20 that has a sliding groove that is positioned on a horizontal plane and that engages with sliding projection/extending portion 26, and elastic member 34 disposed around said extending portion to create a frictional force against plate 14 for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing sliding element 3 from said structure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sliding member/groove configuration of Schmidt into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing said container from said apparatus.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida in view of Schmidt as applied to claim 9 above, and in further view of Casanova. Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt fails to disclose a speaker. Casanova teaches a coin processing apparatus incorporating a speaker (column 4, line 67) configured to make a predetermined sound according to an operation state of the coin sorting means for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the speaker of Casanova into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida in view of Schmidt as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Chiba. Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt fails to disclose an optical sensor. Chiba teaches a coin counting apparatus comprising optical sensor for counting the number of coins being sorted for the purpose of notifying and operator of a total count of coins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensor of Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt for the purpose of notifying an operator of a total count of coins.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Ishida in view of Schmidt as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Perkitny-2. Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt fails to disclose said coin sorting member as being motor actuated. Perkitny-2 teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising motor 44 that drives a rotational shaft (see Figure 1A), carrier container 62 that is coupled to said shaft and has carrier holes 82 (see Figure 2), and separation member 110 having holes 114a-e of different sizes (see Figure 4) for the purpose of sorting coins processed by said apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the sorting member configuration of Perkitny-2 into the apparatus of Perkitny/Adams/Ishida/Schmidt for the purpose of sorting coins processed by said apparatus.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting member 32 that sorts coins according to size, (see Figure 9), guides 42a-d that transfer said sorted coins to a predetermined location (see Figure 8), plurality of coin receiving tubes W that are disposed on an end portion of said guides to receive coins from said guide according to size (see Figures 11 and 12; and column 6, lines 33-46), and coin receiving containers 54a/56a, 54b/56b, 54c/56c and 54d/56d each configured to receive a plurality of tubes of the same size (see Figure 5). Said containers are withdrawn from said apparatus via a sliding configuration comprising sliding member having sliding grooves 78 that engage sliding projections 84 (see Figures 6A and 6B).

Perkitny fails to disclose a sensor/microcomputer configuration. Ishida teaches a coin counting apparatus comprising sensor 21 that includes two sensor elements that are slidable in relation to each other, transmit signals to each other to detect first and second locations of container 4 having coin receiving tubes 41-1 through 41-5, (see Figures 1 and 3 and column 6, line 16-27), and send signals to microcomputer 11 that controls said apparatus for the purpose of detecting the presence of said container within the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensor/microcomputer configuration of

Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of detecting the presence of said container within the apparatus.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Adams.

Perkitny/Ishida fails to disclose a count sensor or control/display part. Adams teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising count sensor 51a that is formed to be offset from a center of guide 13 and counts coins according to size (see Figure 2 and column 4, lines 45-50), and control display part 17 (see Figure 1) for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted by said apparatus and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus (see column 2, lines 57-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the first sensor configuration of Adams into the coin sorting apparatus of Perkitny/Ishida for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted and notifying an operator of the condition of said apparatus.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Adams in view of Schmidt. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting member 32 that sorts coins according to size, (see Figure 9), guides 42a-d that transfer said sorted coins to a predetermined location (see Figure 8), plurality of coin receiving tubes W that are disposed on an end portion of said guides to receive coins from said guide according to size (see Figures 11 and 12; and column 6,

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lines 33-46), and coin receiving containers 54a/56a, 54b/56b, 54c/56c and 54d/56d each configured to receive a plurality of tubes of the same size (see Figure 5). Said containers are withdrawn from said apparatus via a sliding configuration comprising sliding member having sliding grooves 78 that engage sliding projections 84 (see Figures 6A and 6B).

Perkitny fails to disclose said containers as being individually inserted and withdrawn. Adams teaches a plurality of coin receiving containers 16a-i (see Figure 1 and column 3, lines 40-56) for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively withdraw coins from said apparatus according to denomination. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the container configuration of Adams into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of permitting an operator to selectively remove coins from said apparatus according to denomination.

Perkitny fails to disclose said sliding projection/groove configuration having said sliding member disposed below said containers. Schmidt teaches a sliding structure comprising member 20 that has a sliding groove and member that are positioned on a horizontal plane below a movable structure and that engages with sliding projection/extending portion 26, and elastic member 34 disposed around said extending portion to create a frictional force against plate 14 for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing sliding element 3 from said structure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sliding

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member/groove configuration of Schmidt into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of inserting and withdrawing said container from said apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23-30 are allowed. Claim 35 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 and 34-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK J. BEAUCHAINE whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3653

mjb